SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS
TARIQ HAMMET	Г	ALLIANCEONE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC.
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
Craig Thor Kimmel, E		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.
Kimmel & Silverman,	P.C.	Attorneys (If Known)
30 E. Butler Pike		
Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888		₽
II. BASIS OF JURISE	DICTION (Place as "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
G1 US C	M 2 Februaries	(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)
D 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question     (U.S. Government Not a Party)	PTF DEF Citizen of This State
🗇 2 U.S. Government	🗇 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	of Business In Another State
		Citizen or Subject of a
	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	SORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR	
120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury	- G 620 Other Food & Drug G 423 Withdrawal G 410 Antitrust
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic Liability ☐ 365 Personal Injury	
150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability	y ☐ 630 Liquor Laws PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 460 Deportation
& Enforcement of Judgment  15t Medicare Act	Slander	al [] 640 R.R. & Truck [] 820 Copyrights [] 470 Racketeer Influenced and [] 650 Airline Regs. [] 830 Patent Corrupt Organizations
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability Liability	🗇 660 Occupational 🔘 840 Trademark 🔀 480 Consumer Credit
Student Loans (Exc), Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PROPER ☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	RTY Safety/Health
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 🔘 371 Truth in Lending	SOCIAL SECURITY 0 850 Securities/Commodities/
of Veteran's Benefits  160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other Personal ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	C 710 Fair Labor Standards C 861 HiA (1395ff) Exchange  Act C 862 Black Lung (923) C 875 Customer Challenge
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Product Liability     Injury	
FREALPROPERTY	CIVIL/RIGHTS	
210 Land Condemnation	441 Voting     510 Motions to Vacant	
220 Foreelosure     230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 442 Employment Sentence ☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. or Defendant) ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act Security Act ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party ☐ 895 Freedom of Information
☐ 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 3 530 General	26 USC 7609 Act
245 Tort Product Liability 290 Al! Other Real Property	<ul> <li>☐ 444 Welfare</li> <li>☐ 535 Death Penalty</li> <li>☐ 445 Amer, w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus &amp; Other</li> </ul>	her 0 462 Naturalization Application Under Equal Access
	Employment 🗇 550 Civil Rights	Cl 463 Habeas Corpus - to Justice
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 355 Prison Condition Other	Alien Detainee 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Actions
STI Original ☐ 2 Re	an "X" in One Box Only) cmoved from	Appeal to District  4 Reinstated or  5 Transferred from  6 Multidistrict  7 Judge from  Magistrate
Proceeding St	**	(specify) Judgment Judgment
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a	ne filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
	Fair Debt Collection Practices A	ct
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMANDS CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  JURY DEMAND:   Yes □ No
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	DOCKET NUMBER
Explanation:		
5-110	1/	$\sim$
DATE	<i>17</i>	FATTORNEY OF RECORD

## Case 2:11-cv-03172-RB Document 1 Filed 05/16/11 Page 2 of 12

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of						
Address of Plaintiff: 532 W. Brakhupa Rd. Ac	+C1 Barkhoun, PA 19015						
Address of Defendant: 4850 Street Road, Ste 300, The rose, PA 19053							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:(Use Reverse Side For Adv	distanct Page						
	· '						
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and	`						
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes□ No□						
Does this case involve multidistrict fitigation possibilities?	Yeso No@						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:  Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:						
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	<b>~</b>						
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior sui	Yeso NoL3						
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact of grow out of the same transaction as a prior suraction in this court?	a pending of within one year previously terminates						
,	Yes No D						
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier nu							
terminated action in this court?	Yes Not						
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?						
	Yes No (4)						
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:						
1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	<ol> <li>□ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts</li> </ol>						
2. O FELA	<ol><li>□ Airplane Personal Injury</li></ol>						
3.  Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation						
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury						
5. D Patent	5.   Motor Vehicle Personal Injury						
6. C Labor-Management Relations	6.  Other Personal Injury (Please						
	specify)						
7. 🗆 Civil Rights	7. Products Liability						
8. 🗆 Habeas Corpus	8.   Products Liability — Asbestos						
9.  Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases						
10 D Calla Camilla Basina Cara	(Please specify)						
11. D'All other Federal Question Cases 15. U.S. C \$1092	, , ,						
(Please specify)							
ARBITRATION CERTII							
I. Tury har kmm? counsel of record do hereby certify:							
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and be	elief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of						
S150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.							
	67.00						
DATE: 5-16-11 Crary Marx mml	<u></u>						
Aubmey-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	Attorney I.D.#						
NOTE. A distriction will be a distriby july only it disce	has oven comprisince with P.A.C.P. 30.						
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or we except as noted above.	ithin one year previously terminated action in this court						
	57100						
DATE: 5-16-11 Uraig Inc. mml1							
CIV. 609 (6/08)	Attorney I.D.#						

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

J	ang S. Hamr	net4	: :	CIVIL ACTION	
	unce one Recerv		agement, Inc.	NO.	
	plaintiff shall complete filing the complaint and side of this form.) In designation, that defend	a Case Manager serve a copy on a the event that a fant shall, with in er parties, a Case	nent Track Designation all defendants. (See § defendant does not a standard to first appearance, sue Management Track)	duction Plan of this court, couns on Form in all civil cases at the tile 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reagree with the plaintiff regarding bound to the clerk of court and set Designation Form specifying the	me of everse g said eve on
	SELECT ONE OF TH	E FOLLOWIN	G CASE MANAGE	MENT TRACKS:	
	(a) Habeas Corpus - Ca	ases brought und	ler 28 U.S.C. § 2241	through § 2255.	( )
			review of a decision o iff Social Security Be	f the Secretary of Health nefits.	( )
	(c) Arbitration - Cases	required to be d	esignated for arbitrati	on under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	( )
	(d) Asbestos – Cases in exposure to asbesto		for personal injury or	property damage from	( )
		to as complex as erse side of this f		r intense management by	( )
	(f) Standard Manageme	ent - Cases that	do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	Ø
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	215-540-888	<u>8 877-</u>	788-2864	Kimme Vacred Flo	<u>w.c</u> en

**FAX Number** 

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

## 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 4 TARIQ S. HAMMETT 5 Plaintiff 6 Case No.: 7 ALLIANCEONE RECEIVABLES COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 8 MANAGEMENT, INC., JURY TRIAL 9 Defendant (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 10 **COMPLAINT** 11 TARIQ S. HAMMETT ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C. 12 alleges the following against ALLIANCEONE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC. 13 ("Defendant"): 14 15 16 INTRODUCTION 17 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 18 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 19 20 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 21 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 22 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 23 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 24 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 25 1

- 3. Defendant conducts business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.
  - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
  - 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

#### **PARTIES**

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, 19015.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- Defendant is a debt collection company having an office located at 4850 Street
   Road, Suite 300, in Trevose, Pennsylvania, 19053.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and sought to collect a debt from Plaintiff.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and

 misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt

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collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect a consumer debt allegedly due from Plaintiff.
- The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for 16. personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. On or around October 29, 2010, Defendant sent correspondence addressed to Plaintiff seeking and demanding payment of a consumer debt in an alleged amount due of \$200.98. See Exhibit A, Defendant's October 29, 2010, letter to Plaintiff.
- 18. Defendant stated to Plaintiff that her "account has been referred to our office for Collections."
- 19. However, Defendant failed to conspicuously identify the original creditor of the account; rather, Defendant merely referenced "Client: PNC Bank." See Exhibit A.
- 20. Additionally, Defendant included a payment slip for Plaintiff to send payment by mail. See Exhibit A.
- 21. Inconspicuously placed in the body of its letter to Plaintiff was a statement from Defendant that by "sending us a check or giving us your checking account information for payment, you authorize AllianceOne to collect funds electronically for the agreed dates and amounts, in which case your check may not be returned to you." See Exhibit A.
- 22. This was unfair to Plaintiff, as in order to make payment, he either had to: (1) consent to allow Defendant to withdraw funds electronically from his bank account; (2) send a

money order, causing him to incur additional expenses.

- 23. Additionally, to further confuse Plaintiff, nowhere on the payment slip was a place for Plaintiff to set forth the dates and/or amounts he was agreeing to allow Defendant to withdraw.
- 24. Finally, Defendant used multiple addresses on its correspondence to mislead Plaintiff as to its location as well as to the identity of the entity with whom Plaintiff was corresponding. See Exhibit A.
- 25. Specifically, on the top, right corner of the correspondence, Defendant lists an address, "4850 Street Rd, Suite 300, Trevose, PA 19053." See Exhibit A.
- 26. However if Plaintiff were to submit payment then he was to do so at "P.O. Box 3100, Southeastern, PA 19398-3100. See Exhibit A.
- 27. If the Defendant's letter was to be returned for any reason then it should be sent to a third address "P.O. Box 510987, Livonia, MI 48151-6987." See Exhibit A.
- 28. Additionally, if Plaintiff went online to clear up the address conflict, he is given a fourth address of "1160 Center Pointe Drive, Mendota Heights, MN 55120."
- Plaintiff was confused as to whether Defendant is located in Pennsylvania,
   Michigan or Montana.
- 30. Defendant's October 29, 2010, letter to Plaintiff was confusing, misleading, and highly deceptive.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

31. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer

Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).

32. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in

need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v.

- 32. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 33. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

## COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 34. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Defendant violated of the FDCPA generally;
  - b. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by harassing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt;
  - Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
  - d. Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false representations
    or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
  - e. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt; and
  - f. Defendant acted in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failed to comply with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, TARIQ S. HAMMETT, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §
   1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and

d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

## DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, TARIQ S. HAMMETT, demands a jury trial in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DATED: 5-16-11

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By:

Craig Thor Kimmel
Attorney ID # 57 \00
Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.
30 E. Butler Pike

Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com

Receivables Management, Inc

Trevose PA 19053

Please send all correspondence to the above address.

Telephone: 877-516-6555

October 29, 2010

Name: TARIQ S HAMMETT

Account Number : 1267

PIN:

Client Reference Number:

Client: PNC BANK

Your account has been referred to our office for Collections.

If this has been an oversight on your behalf, mail the balance in full to our office. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, call our office and a representative will assist you in negotiating a suitable arrangement.

Telephone: 877-516-6555

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

By sending us a check or giving us your checking account information for payment, you authorize AllianceOne to collect funds electronically for the agreed dates and amounts, in which case your check may not be returned to you. We can also arrange for a direct debit from your checking account.

As of the date of this letter, you owe \$200.98. Your account balance may be periodically increased due to the addition of accrued interest or other charges if so provided in your agreement with your original creditor.

This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.



Detach Boltom Portion And Return With Payment

PO BOX 510987 LIVONIA MI 48151-6987 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

🎓 Mail return address only; send no letters

To contact us regarding your account, call: 877-516-6555

AllianceOne
the property of the state of th

	Regarding	
<u>.</u>	PNCBANK	
Client Reference Number	Balance	Amount Enclosed
2041	\$200.98	\$

Please make check or money order payable to:

TARIQ S HAMMETT % CRAIG THOR KIMMEL, 30 E BUTLER AVE AMBLER PA 19002-4514

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ALLIANCEONE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT INC. PO BOX 3100 SOUTHEASTERN PA 19398-3100

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